and exchange rate variation is being disbursed on pro-rata basis in the ratio of 1:1 to all the claimants of original compensation. As on 14.7.2006, 5,55,632 claimants had received Rs. 1488.06 crore as pro-rata compensation and the disbursal process is continuing.

(c) All the gas victims having health problems are getting treatment at the speciality and super specialty Hospitals set up for the medical rehabilitation of the gas victims. The Cancer patients are receiving free treatment at the Bhopal Memorial Hospital and Research Centre (BMHRC) as well as at the Jawaharlal Nehru Cancer Hospital at Bhopal. All the Cardiac patients at BMHRC who require surgical interventions are getting complete operative treatment, free of cost. The patients with Cataract are getting free intraocular lens implantation (IOL). Other chronically ill patients are being treated at the Hospitals under the Bhopal Gas Tragedy, Relief and Rehabilitation Department and also at the BMHRC.

(d) Under the order and settlement award of the Supreme Court of India dated 14th and 15th February, 1989 respectively, an amount of US $ 470 Million was paid by Union Carbide Corporation (UCC), USA as compensation for the victims of Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster. In addition, the Court of the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bhopal issued attachment order of 1,65,84,750 shares of Union Carbide India Limited (UCIL) held by UCC on 30th April, 1992. The Supreme Court *Vide* its directions dated 14th February, 1994 modified the attachment order of these shares so as to permit their sale. Out of the sale proceeds, after deducting the expenses incurred for the sale such as commission, stamp duty, capital gains tax and other incidentals, a sum of Rs. 117 crore became available for construction, equipping and maintenance of the Bhopal Memorial Hospital and Research Centre.

Health camps and drug price control

439. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pharma companies who conduct health care programmes for poor in rural areas would not be allowed to charge higher on price controlled medicines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how it is proposed to ensure that the benefits reach poor and that pharma companies do not take advantage of this concession for their own benefit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) No, Sir. As per the present Pharma Pricing Policy, the 74 bulk drugs specified in the First Schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95) and the formulations based thereon are under price control and their prices are fixed/revised by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in accordance with the provisions of the DPCO, 95. These drugs have been kept under price control on the basis of criteria mentioned in 'Modifications in Drug Policy, 1986', announced in September, 1994.

Prices of on-Scheduled formulations are fixed by the manufacturers themselves keeping in view the various factors like cost of production, marketing expenses, R&D expenses, trade commission, market competition, product innovation, product quality etc., The NPPA monitors the prices of medicines as per monthly Retail Audit Reports of ORG-IMS Research Pvt. Ltd. The Government takes corrective measures where the public interest is found to be adversely affected.

Discrimination towards Talcher unit

†440. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether real status of Fertilizer Corporation of India (FCI) Talcher unit of Orissa;

(b) the way Government wants to utilize its township; and

(c) whether it does not reflect the discrimination of Centre towards the State by closing Talcher unit only while other units of FCI, Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers, and Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation, etc. have been revived?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Pursuant to a decision taken

†Originai notice of the question was received in Hindi.